

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 CANBER 05220 250856Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00  
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EPG-02 FAA-00 SS-15  
NSC-05 L-03 H-02 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 /075 W  
-----062605 250925Z /10

R 250700Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0969

INFO AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

UNCLAS CANBERRA 5220

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AS

SUBJ: AUSTRALIAN REACTION TO CONTINENTAL AIRLINES ROUTE AWARD

REF: STATE 170375

1. THE ONLY OFFICIAL GOA REACTION SO FAR RECEIVED BY EMBASSY IS EXPRESSION OF DISSAPPOINTMENT BY DALRYMPLE, DFA, TO DCM IN COURSE OF COURTESY CALL BY THE LATTER DURING AFTERNOON OF JULY 21. DALRYMPLE SUBSEQUENTLY TELEPHONED TO REQUEST THAT THE EXPRESSION, WHICH HAD REFLECTED A TELEPHONE CALL TO HIM FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT, BE CONSIDRED AN OFFICIAL EXPRESSION.

2. THE AWARD RECEIVED WIDE BUT RELATIVELY CALM ATTENTION IN JULY 22 MORNING PRESS. STORIES RECALLED OFFICIAL GOA OPPOSITION TO CONTINENTAL AWARD DURING CAB CONSIDERATION, AS WELL AS REPRESENTATIONS BY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF TRANSPORT DURING U.S. VISITS. THEY ALSO RECOUNTED AMERICAN AIRLINES EXPERIENCE ON ROUTE AND DESCRIBED STATEMENTS OF DISAPPOINTMENT AT PRESIDENT'S DECISION BY QANTAS AND PAN AM REPRESENTATIVES, AS WELL AS WELCOMING STATEMENTS FROM SOME AUSTRALIAN TOURIST PROMOTION SOURCES.

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PAGE 02 CANBER 05220 250856Z

EM PRESS SPECULATION INCLUDED POSSIBILITY GOA MIGHT SEEK RENEGOTIATION OF U.S.-AUSTRALIA AIR AGREEMENT, AND/OR PRESSURE ON PAN AM TO MAKE OFFSETTING REDUCTION IN SOUTH PACIFIC FREQUENCIES. ONE NEWSPAPER PUBLISHED UNATTRIBUTED REPORT THAT CONTINENTAL AFTER A FEW MONTHS OF OPERATIONS WILL SEEK I.A.T.A. APPROVAL FOR A REDUCTION IN SOUTH PACIFIC FARES.

4. A THEME RUNNING THROUGH PRESS REPORTS IS THAT GOA  
AUTHORITIES OFFENDED BY ASSERTED FAILURE OF USG TO PROVIDE  
TIMELY OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF PRESIDENT'S ACTION AND  
RESULTING FACT THAT ANNOUNCEMENT BY CONTINENTAL WAS FIRST  
KNOWLEDGE GOA RECEIVED OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTION.  
ALSTON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AIRLINES, AIR ROUTES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 25-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 170375  
**Retention:** 0  
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**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AUSTRALIAN REACTION TO CONTINENTAL AIRLINES ROUTE AWARD  
**TAGS:** EAIR, AS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/afd58264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009